The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service presents authentic and essential interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the local, national, industrial, and political fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

WHOLE NO. 1882 — VOL. 37, NO. 18

Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

Tobin Sees Price Curb As Solution To Threatened Inflation In America

Washington, D. C.—Profiteering, depression and continuation of a situation encouraging communistic inroads were vigorously attacked by Daniel J. Tobin, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and a Vice President of the American Federation of Labor in a recent article assailing the National Association of Manufacturers and those in Congress who would follow such direction as that group would indicate.

In an article published in the most recent issue of the American Federationist, Mr. Tobin, declaring that last year business rolled up profits after taxes of some 12 billion dollars while wages of workers were declining 5 billion, said:

"As wages went down, profits went up. We are now in the position of trying to force wages up to the level of prices, whereupon prices will go up again. We will always be a last behind.

"Business has refused to do anything about it. That leaves only the federal government. The government must do something if we are to escape a complete economic collapse.

"The answer to the plight of the average citizen is not increased wages. Increased wages mean nothing if every wage increase is the signal for a still higher price increase. In fact, each succeeding wage increase will make labor worse off if each price increase is higher than the wage increase, which it usually is.

"The amount of money a man makes is not important. The important thing is what that money will buy. Money is no good if it won't buy groceries and shoes and housing.

"And as we proceed further down the dizzy dip to inflation, our money is buying less and less until dollars are becoming worthless.

"The solution rests with price control. If business won't control prices, the federal government must. If prices can be leveled off somewhere, we can then adjust our wage structure to the price structure and restore economic stability. That will give us a higher standard of living.

"As matters stand now, the public does not have the money to buy, at current prices, the goods that are being produced. That means that less goods will be produced. That, in turn, means that men will be laid off. As unemployment increases, the public will have still less money to spend and production will decrease still more.

"Then we end up in a depression. And probably it will be in a form such as this nation or the world has never known before. If the United States fails on its face, the last hope of restoring sanity and stability will have vanished for a long time to come.

"We will be foundering in the sea with the rest of the nations of the world. Desperate and hungry people will be listening for any voice in the wilderness and looking for any man on a white horse.

"The best hope to check the spread of communism will evaporate like the dew in the sun.

"It is ironical that while business chants with fear and frenzy about the spread of communism throughout the world, it has adopted a policy in this nation that will bring on communism or some other totalitarian evil. We cannot extol the virtues of democracy by people who are living in fear, disemboweled by its most dangerous enemy.

"Democracy will be dead, in the United States as in many nations of the world, the moment depression strikes us. The United States has the top program of worldwide leadership."

High Court Upholds Claim Of Building Staff Employes To Overtime Compensation

Washington, D. C.—Deciding an overtime pay suit against owners of 1 New York City loft building, the United States Supreme Court held unanimously that forty hours' basic wage agreements must provide for "regular" hourly rates and for at least time and a half for overtime.

One formula included in a wage contract between the 149 Madison Avenue Corporation and the janitor and maintenance employes failed to meet requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the court found.

The lower courts were upheld in their rulings that a group of service employes were allowed to receive overtime compensation.

Justice Douglas, writing for Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson, stated that the court did not mean to rule invalid a wage plan simply because it uses a formula in determining weekly wages.

"The crucial question," he stated, was whether the "hourly rate" derived from the formula constituted a "regular rate" and whether the formula yielded adequately for overtime compensation.

The contract in question, covering employment in 1942 and 1943, provided for a 54-hour week for watchmen and a 48-hour week for other service and maintenance employes.

Weekly wages, to include payments for regular hours (the first 40) and for hours over 40, were to be determined by the following formula:

The janitor body rates for those regularly employed more than 40 hours per week shall be determined by dividing their weekly earnings by the number of hours employed plus one-half of the number of hours actually employed in excess of forty hours."

The court said that this formula, in effect, gave the employes a "regular" hourly rate, whether he worked the scheduled number of hours or put in more or fewer hours.

The chief Justice pointed out that the contract made no provision for a guaranteed weekly wage when an hourly rate stipulated.

The suit, filed by 149 Madison Avenue Corporation said that this decision would affect thousands of building service employes in New York.

Green Calls On Nation to Help Fight Moves to Nullify Labor's Gains

Washington, D. C.—Expressing emphatic opposition to nullification of labor laws the establishing of which in decades and to revive injunctive control of unions, AFL President Green called upon the entire country to "seriously consider ways and means to curb labor unions into ineffective ness."

Declaring that "the records show that unions have basic democratic force," Mr. Green, in an editorial written for the American Federationist, asserted:

"The organized labor movement in the United States has its roots in the early history of this country. Our forefathers, united in a willingness, had to build homes and develop the means to earn their livings, to an elemental necessity in each new community was the erection of a carpenter, brick or stone mason, blacksmith and shoemaker. Craftsmen whose skills were the result of guild training from the older countries of the Old World helped to build the foundations of our Western World, its economy and civilization. Early New England unions were the parent schools of new craftsmen and performed chiefly fraternal services to members.

"In those days of limited means of travel and communication, wage earners were organized mainly in local unions and amalgamated communities. Only the few labor disputes and movements in which all workers were interested was manhood suffrage with without property qualification. This was followed by public support for the establishment of the free public school system in all states. These basic achievements, to which early unions gave birth, laid the conditions which were Basic in the development of democratic institutions. The ne ed still was to make possible manhood suffrage exercised by an educated electorate. Labor early advocated women's suffrage.

"As mechanical power took industry out of the home into factories, unions became the agency with which to fight terms and conditions of work which were unfair. Initiating this period in which workers sought acceptance as a functional group entitled to share in free enterprise. Only by such activity can workers ever have work rights and responsibilities. Unions had to disestablish the false concept that union effort to promote the rights of workers was part of an illegal conspiracy against employers and their right to do business. By protesting injustice in courts, in addressing themselves to collective bargaining, unions secured opportunities for wage earners to promote their economic interests and share in social progress. Thirty years ago the 10-hour work day make possible higher wages. This was the first victory of our citizens.

"But the struggle for liberty does not end. Soon organized employers mobilized their economic and government to develop new weapons against unions in the form of court orders or injunctions and prosecution under anti-trust laws on the theory that unions were monopolies. Equity judges became strikebreakers for employers resisting wage increases and collective bargaining. Thousands of confiscating workers' homes and liberty arbitrarily were taken away. Court law became law of union activity. Only by political activity in order to make effective their rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights written into public law, and right to quit work collectively, the right to negotiate collectively over hours and conditions of work, and the right to picket peacefully.

"Strong and effective unions have supplemented political democracy by assuring economic rights for the industrial worker and his family and enabling them to assume responsibility. Only the labor movement has taken pride in the fact that the workers of the land are the basis of democracy, are also known throughout the world as the most intelligent and most resourceful work force in the world. The United States among the world in technical progress and has a world's most corresponding work ability. All this because we have had the right to develop freely through our unions and national constitution.

"These facts and these achievements are not accidents as reason why oppressive, punitive legislation should not be enacted to throttle the unions that are the basis in integral part in the development of our democracy. The right to organize unions and must have an effective role in collective bargaining is fundamentally to claim world leadership in the protection of freedom for all other countries.

AFL Group Plans To Meet In June On Palestine Aid

New York City—More than 300 delegates of labor unions from every part of the United States are expected will meet at a three-day National Trade Union Emergency Conference to Labor Palestine in Atlantic City, N. J., next month William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, as principal speaker.

The conference is being called to protest against the British betrayal labor with the Palestinian Jewish Federation of Labor, in its work of settling Palestine and turning the desert into the land "flowing with milk and honey."

The AFL, as well as many international unions, and state and city central bodies, has already committed repeatedly demanding that Great Britain, the mandate power in Palestine, honor the terms of its mandate, and permit the free entry of Jews into Palestine. Recently they have urged the carrying out of President Truman's recommendation that 100,000 survivors of the Nazi extermination camps be permitted to enter Palestine immediately.

Organized labor's sympathy with the aspirations of the Jewish people to build Palestine into a free and democratic homeland is especially dear because of the important part played by the building of Palestine by the Palestine Federation of Labor—known as the Histadrut.

Histadrut, with 170,000 members, who together with their families make up over one-half of the Jewish population of Palestine, plays a dominating part in the Palestinian economy.

ARTISTS, ACTORS RESENT ATTACKS ON LABOR RIGHTS

Seattle, Wash.—Organized writers, artists and other radio professionals of the American Federation of Radio Artists (AFL) here, have unanimously expressed grateful support on the floor of congress and in published in the Congressional Record, of Representative Hugh D. Scott, Jr., Republican, of Pennsylvania, for his amendment, that the labor law should be changed to prohibit the use of funds collected from members for political purposes. It is not enough that the funds of the unions of employers who have pressed the legislation be used to help and to make campaign contributions to those who sponsored the legislation.

"Certainly, Senator Taft has not the right to demand of labor that its claim that Congress received a mandate from the people in 1946 to vote for the enactment of a law which would prevent the power of labor unions to serve the working people of this country and which the people voted for labor-management peace, is not the mandate which it claims. The legislation now before Congress would not help to bring about labor peace but would industrial conflicts ever inflicted upon the nation.

"Finally, Senator Taft still has not explained why his committee called their testimony as from anti-union employers, with complaints against labor unions, and ignored the testimony of thousands of American employers and employes who have negotiated and are now enjoying constructive and cooperative relations with unions. Surely the Senate committee hearings should be conducted in a more fair investigation, as recommended by President Truman. Senator Taft and his colleagues deliberately ignored the facts in their zeal to whip up a false, false and misleading case—for legislation which would destroy the free workers of America."

PRICES AT NEW RECORD

Washington, D. C.—According to the index of consumer prices of the U. S. Department of Labor Statistics, every major item rose between February 15 and March 15 and on May 2 the BLS showed final figures for mid-March as the highest on record, 156 percent of the prewar average.

CALIFORNIA CONCLAVE SHIFTS

San Francisco, Calif.—Because of lack of hotel accommodations in San Diego, the Executive Council of the California State Federation of Labor has authorized the annual convention to be transferred to Sacramento.

Green Demands Taft Name Lobbyists Behind Labor Bill

AFL Leader to Debate Big Legislation Issues With Ohioan Sunday

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green challenged Senator Taft of Ohio, chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, to name the anti-employers which he admitted were responsible for three-fourths of the anti-labor bills before the Senate to destroy the union movement.

Declaring that Senator Taft and his colleagues "deliberately ignored the facts presented by union leaders and thousands upon thousands" of free-minded employers, Mr. Green in "chain and degrade free workers of America," Mr. Green further challenged the Taft statement that this was "a mandate from the people."

Mr. Green will confront Sen. Taft in a radio debate May 11, from 9:30 to 9 P.M. (EST) over the coast-to-coast network of the National Broadcasting Co. on the question, "Is Labor Legislation Necessary?"

Meanwhile, top figures of the nation's industrial, labor and political field, who resent this bill will participate in a series of four broadcasts over the same ABC network, beginning at 9:30 P.M. (EDT), Sunday, May 4 continuing of May 15, 22, and 29 at the same time. These will be re-broadcast over the more than 400 stations of the Mutual Network each Sunday, beginning at 1:30 P.M.

Mr. Green, sharply critical of the statement issued by Senator Taft, told newsmen in a special statement:

"Senator Taft now admits for the record that three-quarters of the provisions included in the slave-labor bill being debated by the Senate were pressed upon him and the Senate Labor Committee by employers.

"But the Senator still refuses to disclose the names of those secret, in our newspaper advertisements of April 15 the Congress of Industrial Labor asked Senator Taft to reveal the names of those employers who lobbied so staunchly with him and his colleagues for the anti-labor legislation. The Senator appears to be exercising the privilege of silence. In this silence intended to cloak the fact that the real sponsors of the legislation are the tight little group of reactionary employers who dominate the National Association of Manufacturers.

"We know that the NAM dictated the anti-labor legislation before the entire text of the Hartley anti-labor bill passed the House. Public record was made on the floor of the House that the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, a NAM stop there, or did their lobbying before their secret pressure in the Senate.

"It has been openly charged during the Senate debate that Senator Taft and some of his colleagues are capitalizing and distorting anti-labor legislation for political purposes. It is not enough that the funds of the unions of employers who have pressed the legislation be used to help and to make campaign contributions to those who sponsored the legislation.

"Certainly, Senator Taft has not the right to demand of labor that its claim that Congress received a mandate from the people in 1946 to vote for the enactment of a law which would prevent the power of labor unions to serve the working people of this country and which the people voted for labor-management peace, is not the mandate which it claims. The legislation now before Congress would not help to bring about labor peace but would industrial conflicts ever inflicted upon the nation.

"Finally, Senator Taft still has not explained why his committee called their testimony as from anti-union employers, with complaints against labor unions, and ignored the testimony of thousands of American employers and employes who have negotiated and are now enjoying constructive and cooperative relations with unions. Surely the Senate committee hearings should be conducted in a more fair investigation, as recommended by President Truman. Senator Taft and his colleagues deliberately ignored the facts in their zeal to whip up a false, false and misleading case—for legislation which would destroy the free workers of America."

Big Variety Air Shows Planned In Drive to Defeat Anti-Labor Bills

New York City.—Top-ranking stars of radio, screen, stage and the music world will be featured on the first of four gala variety programs to be broadcast over the ABC national network Thursday evening, May 8, at 9:30 p.m. (EDT).

These are part of the intensive radio campaign launched by all the 15 officers of the Congress of Labor against the Hartley-Taft slave labor bills, and is being arranged by the Entertainment Unions Committee. Other all-star shows will be presented on May 15, 22 and 29 over the same network at the same time.

These programs will be rebroadcast that same Sunday, beginning at May 11, from 1:30 to 2 p.m. (EDT).

Henry Morgan, Georgia Gibbs ("Her Nibbs Miss Gibbs"), the Ink Spots, Sammy Kaye and Orchestra, Allen's show, and Ray Bloch's orchestra will afford part of the half hour of entertainment on the May 8 program. In addition a dramatic sketch specially written by Arthur Miller, prize-winning author of "All My Sons" and "Death of a Salesman" will be acted by popular stars from the legitimate stage and the movies. The title of Mr. Miller's play is "The Hiccups of Alfred Higgins."

Coordinated by M. B. Novik, as liaison between the AFL and the committee, a group of the most important radio writers, directors, actors, and musicians are organizing this series of programs for AFL use for at least a month.

The night-time variety show is directed by Ed Byron, President of the Screen Directors Guild of the Radio Directors Guild, and by Perry Lafferty. The continuity is written by Bill Morrow, writer for the Bing Crosby show, and the commercial pages—first in the history of radio to advertise labor instead of a commercial product—were written by Alan Kent and Hy Zaret.

Unions Ask Taft to Point Finger At Men Demanding Labor Curbs

Washington, D. C.—Stern challenge to Senator Robert A. Taft, Republican, of Ohio, that the anti-labor laws which he is pushing "was not a milk-toast measure," and covered some three-quarters of the provisions upon which he is strenuously by employers" was raised by the American Federation of Labor in large advertisements in leading newspapers last week.

Declaring that the time has come when "the public is entitled to have the answers" to a number of questions raised by such statements, the advertisements demanded:

"What employers, Senator Taft?"

Demanding to know if the employers swearing for anti-labor legislation were "the same interests who assured the American housewife of lower prices if OPA was killed—and then got a boiling" the AFL challenger demanded to know if the anti-labor interests were

"Primarily few who raised their own profits—then refused to raise wages

"The groups which fought, and still fight, to keep children in factories?

"Those who bitterly opposed social security, the 40-hour week, workmen's compensation and all the social advances that have benefited both America and all Americans?"

The AFL advertisements further asked Senator Taft:

"What of the charges made on the floor of Congress and published in the Congressional Record, charges unanswered, that the slave labor laws are written by the high-priced lawyers of the National Association of Manufacturers and pressed upon the legislators by the same group that made propaganda?

"Those who has the National Association of Manufacturers become the Taft-Hartley Congress' interest? Can the leopard change its spots?

"What of the thousands of employers with whom labor has friendly and cooperative relations? Why were they never given an opportunity to testify against the slave labor bill?

"We think the public is entitled to know the answers!"

The advertisements were part of the nation-wide battle being carried on by labor to defend plans of all of foes to strip workers of the gains they have won after years of toil and years of struggle. The original advertisements carrying the AFL message to the public was a full-page appeal in 150 leading papers throughout the country.

Some of the major points made in the AFL advertising campaign were that the legislation which labor-slave ers would impose "would destroy free collective bargaining" and that it has been designed in blind vindictiveness, and constitutes an invitation to industrial economic disaster by elimination of labor."

Padway Defends Secondary Boycotts In Spirited Discussion On Radio

Washington, D. C.—Anti-labor legislation pending in Congress was discussed in a broadcast Sept. 3 this way, Counsel for the American Federation of Labor, and Lewis Clark, counsel for the National Broadcasting Co.

Mr. Clark referred to a set of such measures with J. 7. Sanders of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Padway, counsel of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Padway defended labor's proposals to ban secondary boycotts.

"There are secondary boycotts, which they be called secondary, primary or what have you," Joseph A. Padway told your figure at and say they ought to be outlawed. That is not a matter of view, as some people do, but labor organizations between the public at large and the thing he produces through his labor.

"Workers have the right to combine for the purpose of receiving all the wages they can obtain and so they can achieve improved standards, but they get more wages they will buy more items.

Mr. Sanders conceded that boycotts are not bad and in some cases permissible. However, he said even secondary boycotts with which the Congress has come in contact were definitely harmful to the farmer.

Mr. Barton summed up briefly the public suffered most greatly from the secondary boycott and stated that the final legislation would ban such action.

AFL FARMERS TO DISCUSS COOPERATIVES AT PARLEY

Monteagle, Tenn.—The formation of cooperatives for farmers will be a topic of discussion at the 5-day summer school planned by the National Farmers Labor Union (AFL) at Highlander Folk School on July 27-31. Students will be drawn from Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas farmers union homes. The Tennessee quota will be 25.

6,000 GRANTED RAISES IN DETROIT LAUNDERIES

Detroit, Mich.—Approximately 6,000 laundry and cleaning workers in this area won the equivalent of a 10 cent an hour wage boost from 24 joint labor committees of the Linen Laundry and Industrial Cleaners Association, according to Laundry Workers' Local 129 (AFL).

The blanket raise was 7 cents an hour plus three paid holidays and a 40-hour basic week.

Labor Department Funds Slashed By 103 Million

Washington, D. C.—The Senate approved an appropriations bill of $76,189,000 for the Labor Department and Federal Security Agency for the next fiscal year, representing a slash of $103,415,969 below the amount asked by the Truman Administration, but $265,276,297 above the amount provided for the current fiscal year.

Nine successive attempts by the Democratic side of the aisle to increase the items were defeated overwhelmingly.

The bill was passed by voice vote without change of a single dollar from the form in which it emerged from the Senate Appropriations Committee. It was $9,285,700 below what had been allowed by the House.

The Senate bill restored money to pay the salary of Edgar L. Warren, director of the United States Conciliation Service, and his aides. The House refused to appropriate such funds.

A major part of the funds in the Labor Department and Federal Security Agency and obligations under the Social Security program and the Railroad Retirement Act.

The bill will be sent to conference so it is unlikely that the House will accept the Senate's changes.

The Senate put aside temporarily the question of public housing.

Senator Pat McCarran, Democrat, of Nevada, discussing the report of the Appropriations Committee, led the attack on it.

He accused the Republican majority of an extension of 14 years of Democratic control of the White House that they were "blindly refusing to go along with anything reasonable" in their drive for economy.

He argued that "not one word of justification" had been given by Republican House committee for some of the reductions made in the bill.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

Broader National Health Measure Is Drafted By Liberal Senators

Washington, D. C.—A broad national health insurance bill has been drafted by a liberal group of Senators, including Wagner of New York, Murray of Montana, and Mcgrath of Rhode Island, for early consideration at the current session.

The measure is almost identical with the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill of 1946 but contains a number of important improvements, as indicated in the specific request of the American Federation of Labor.

Among these are decentralization of administration, providing that the operation of the plan will be through State and local areas with a minimum of coordination from Washington. The bill, further makes explicate provision for continuation of voluntary health plans such as those developed in collective bargaining agreements by labor unions. Voluntary plans that meet the requirements of providing good medical care will continue to operate as service agencies within the over-all plan. The new bill, like the old, provides protection to practically all wage earners excepting those under the Railroad Retirement Act.

Under this bill all needed preventive, diagnostic and curative services by a family physician of the patient's choice and services of specialists when required, laboratory and x-ray services and other special services are required will be available to workers and members of their families. Dental, home nursing and other auxiliary services will be available depending on the adequacy of personnel.

The National Health Insurance and Public Health Bill, as the new measure is called, guarantees full participation in policy matters by those who receive and pay for medical care. National, State and local policy committees are provided in the bill with the requirement that a majority be composed of representatives of peoples organizations. Labor unions will be assured of full participation in the administration of the plan. Matters of a strictly technical nature are left, as they should be, to the hands of professionally trained personnel.

The bill further provides aid to the States for the expansion and improvement of public health services.

Hearings are scheduled to begin before a subcommittee of the Senate Education and Labor Committee May 19. These hearings will prove a battleground, in view of the fact that the bill introduced earlier by Senators Taft, Ball, Bridges and Hawkes is also considered at the same time. This bill is opposed to make grants available from the Federal Treasury to the States and their subdivisions to enable them to pay the cost of medical care to the needy persons and their dependents. It is based on the charity principle and is not eligible for its benefits persons would have to be certified as "indigent" by some welfare agency. Administrative control of the program would be in the hands of the medical societies.

It is expected that officers of many national and international unions and the Federation of Labor will testify against the vicious Taft bill and in favor of health insurance at the hearings.

AFL Coast-to-Coast Radio Schedule

Day	Time	Network	Program
Every Thursday	9:30 P. M. E.D.T.	ABC	★★★★★ ★★★★★ 5-Star Variety Show From Hollywood
Daily (except Sat. & Sun.)	3:45 P. M. E.D.T.	ABC	New Radio Drama With Stars from Stage and Screen
Every Sunday	1:30 P. M. E.D.T.	Mutual	★★★★★ ★★★★★ Repeat Performance Of 5-Star Variety Show
Every Tuesday	8:15 P. M. E.D.T.	ABC	Talks By Outstanding Speakers
May 23	10:45 P. M. E.D.T.	NBC	Labor Speaker (To be announced)

NOTE! Please check radio listings in your local newspaper for time of broadcasts. All times given above are Eastern Daylight Time.

Rail Unions Stand to Lose 92 Millions By Repeal of Crosser Amendments

Chicago—Sound warning that repeal of the Crosser amendments would rob the railroad brotherhoods of $92,000,000 in pensions, of their sick benefits and aid for widows and their children was issued by the Railway Employes Department of the AFL to its membership.

In a statement addressed to all general chairmen, system Federation officers and the insurance and staff, the statement, entitled "What Employes Stand to Lose Should the Crosser Amendments be Repealed," declared that such action would:

1. Take away all payments for sickness or accidents.

2. Reduce the number of days for which Unemployment Insurance is paid per year from 130 to 104.

3. Reduce the maximum daily benefit rate for Unemployment Insurance from $5 to $4. In other words, you ask to have your benefits reduced $1 per day, and these three items cost you absolutely nothing, for they are paid out of funds collected from company.

4. Go back to the old system, whereby it was necessary to be in service August 29, 1935, in order to qualify for prior service.

5. Eliminate the employes who were absent on account of sickness or disability on August 29, 1935.

Ex-Rep. Fitzgerald Dies; Long Allied With Labor

Norwich, Conn.—William J. Fitzgerald, former Representative and long a leader and champion in the cause of the American Federation of Labor, died here following a long illness at the age of 62.

Mr. Fitzgerald, for 25 years a member of the International Molders' Union of North America (AFL), and for four years first vice-president of the Connecticut State Federation of Labor, served in the Congress from the Senate from 1931 to 1935 and was responsible for some of the most valued labor legislation passed in that State during his service.

In the National Congress, Mr. Fitzgerald, who served two terms, voted 100 percent for every bill placed before the House which would benefit labor.

He endorsed measures favoring railroad retirement, low rent housing, relief appropriations, the AAA, Wage and Hour Bill for 40 cents an hour and 40-hour week on a national basis, continuation of the Un-American Activities Committee, and opposed a wide range of bills which would have hampered labor and imposed governmental restrictions which would have had the effect of nullifying the beneficial acts which had been enacted.

On eight of the major issues presented to the House in the two years 1939-40 and 1941-42, the vote of Congressman Fitzgerald was 100 percent record with the position taken by the AFL.

Mr. Fitzgerald, during his service in the Connecticut State Senate from 1931 to 1935, took an active part in securing enactment of a number of labor laws which have long been cited as a high standard of labor legislation compared with other States.

He formed the first labor unit exclusively for the passage of the minimum wage law for the benefit of women and minors, the old-age pension and unemployment relief laws and measures for the elimination of child labor in the agricultural fields, and other legislation requiring the payment of prevailing wages on public building bids.

His broad experience in the field of labor legislation is indicated by the fact that he was chairman of the Connecticut Senate he was instrumental in having the legislature designated to benefit the workers.

Nor was Mr. Fitzgerald lacking in experience in the administration of labor laws. He served as Deputy Labor Commissioner of Connecticut from 1935 to 1937. It was during this period that the State Labor Department carried on a crusade, actively participated in the fight for equal pay against sweatshops, which resulted in these establishments paying out low-wage employers being driven from Connecticut.

ENGINEER SCARCITY SEEN SLOWING ROAD BUILDING

Washington, D. C.—The Nation's postwar construction program will be retarded and normal improvement in technical development will be restricted, unless new engineers are attracted to the highway field, according to the American Road Builders' Association's engineer-director, Chas. M. Uphath.

Lower transport in the United States or any other country can only be as efficient as the engineers who are responsible for its development, he declared.

"Since a state highway department is charged with the responsibility of spending one dollar out of the public tax money, salaries for engineers should be commensurate with that responsibility," Mr. Upham continued. "Low salaries will not attract ambitious young engineers to the highway field and without these engineers, millions of dollars can be wasted. Salaries in industry are carefully adjusted to the amount of responsibility carried by the individual. Losses caused by mismanagement are evident by fatter salaries that obtain maximum efficiency," he added.

LUMBER PRICES SOAR FAR ABOVE PAY RISES

Portland, Ore.—Wage increases totaling 18 cents an hour, paid in December, 1945, have increased the production cost of a typical 2 by 4 stud, random board feet and fir $4.66, but price increases for lumber from the same period amount to $20.50 and $27.15 per thousand for pine and fir, according to a survey by the Lumber and Sawmill Workers (AFL).

The study, based on 4 1940 fir survey and 4 1945 pine surveys, indicates conclusively that to maintain industry profits during the 1940's level, the price of pine should have been increased only $13.50 per thousand and Douglas fir $9.32 per thousand." Ex-Senator Burton K. Wheeler, 1940 Democratic vice-presidential candidate, declared that the union's northwestern council decision.

Davis declared present profits in Douglas fir of $9.32 per thousand proved the industry could increase wages "more than twice" and "remain the national pattern—like per hour wages will receive a 20.90 percent to 40 percent profit increase over November, 1945, prices.

"And there is still plenty left in that 200 percent to 400 percent profit increase range to take care of paid holidays, better vacations and health and welfare funds," he concluded.

Industry-Wide Bargaining Ban Is Beaten In First Senate Test

AFL Cautions Workers To Keep Watchful Eye On NAM's Propaganda

Washington, D. C. — Warning to workers throughout the United States against falling for the propaganda being issued by the National Association of Manufacturers, branded as a "fraud and a delusion" the slave labor bill, was issued by the American Federation of Labor in large advertisements spread in leading newspapers across the Nation.

"If you work for a living, you're Labor," the message declared in a statement that it seeks to protect the rights of "you the worker" when it prepares for legislation to outlaw the closed shop.

"The NAM gets its money for newspaper and radio time and millions from labor-hating employers," the message of the AFL declared. "Since when is this crew defending the rights of workers?

"Who wants the closed shop? That's easy! Millions of union members who know they are able to provide at some thing a little better than a bare living for their families as a result of the high standards won by strong and secure unions. — workers who know their combined economic welfare is bound up in the security of their union.

"They know that the closed shop, plus collective bargaining, have kept that extra hour to play with their kids, kept the scarecrow of cheap table garden in the back yard. Further, progressive employers by the thousands accept and prefer the closed shop because it helps to stabilize industry and encourage business enterprise and initiative."

Anti-Labor Legislation In Congress Aimed at Collective Bargaining

South Bend, Ind.—Anti-labor legislation pending in Congress at this time is not designed to cure industrial ills, but is directed against the very process of collective bargaining.

This was the key of the message delivered here by Boris Shishkin, economist of the American Federation of Labor, in an address before the Midwest Conference of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame.

In a blunt appraisal of efforts in Congress to curb labor freedom, Mr. Shishkin told the conference:

"It is not an empty phrase, but a matter of grim reality that the American system of free enterprise and American institution of political democracy are at stake in the basic outcome of which depends their very survival.

"The war itself and the technology born of war have broken down the vast barrier isolating our nation from the rest of the world. From now on the economic and political fate of the United States is inextricably bound up with that of other nations. The new postwar world is changing rapidly, it irrevocably and inescapably a part, torn by a far-reaching economic conflict between dictatorship and self-government.

"This conflict of ideas is rooted in the aspirations of nations. It is not merely a conflict between political democracy and political dictatorship. At the deepest level it is a conflict between economic democracy and economic totalitarianism.

"If it is to survive this historic test, the profit system of capitalistic enterprise must adjust to the realities of a highly developed modern industrial society.

"First of all, it must clearly define its limits. It must recognize and recognize that it is not an end in itself but a means to an end. That end is the welfare of the people, material, moral and spiritual, welfare based on free choice expressed by the rule of the majority.

"Second, it must recognize that private enterprise has increasingly become a collective enterprise. Concentration of economic power in the United States today is not so much in the hands of individual corporations. And not so much in the hands of individual corporations but of aggregates of corporations. These large concentrations of wealth and power carry with them corresponding responsibilities—social labor and toward the community. If private management is not present to assure economic equity, public controls cannot be escaped. Political decisions are substituted for economic decisions and individual or private management gives way to political domination.

"Third, in modern industrial society collective contract—the union agreement—is the real basic instrument of national labor policy and the foremost guarantee of sustained economic peace. Collective contracts are meaningless, unless it leads to collective agreement. But collective agreement means, effectively representative labor unions and the ability of workers are an institution without which our enterprise system cannot long survive."

Dubinsky Appeals to Truman For Veto of Portal Pay Act

New York City—An urgent plea to President Truman to veto the Portal-to-Portal Pay Act was addressed to the White House by David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and a vice president of the American Federation of Labor.

Speaking for 380,000 members of the ILGWU, Mr. Dubinsky wired Truman that "as guardian of the rights of labor, you know the duties of reason and justice by ruling out retroactive pay." The Portal Pay Act declared, would have destructive effects on the basic principles of hundreds of millions of workers which have been established through the Fair Labor Standards Act and other similar laws.

The full text of Mr. Dubinsky's letter to President Truman follows:

"On behalf of the 380,000 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, I respectfully urge you to veto the Portal-to-Portal Pay Act of 1947 (H.R. 2157). Our concern is not with portal-to-portal pay but with destructive effects of this law upon protection afforded millions of workers by the Fair Labor Standards Act (Wage-Hour) and the Davis-Bacon Act, in the following respects:

"(1) Section Two of Act can be interpreted to deny unorganized workers from bidding employers liable for asserted violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, other than portal-to-portal violations.

"(2) By permitting compromise of certain claims, the Act would, on undated damage, for violation of Fair Labor Standards Act, the act would encourage employers to victimize employees, and converts into mere penalties claims violations that our public policy has declared to be a matter of public concern.

"(3) There is no justification for changing existing law by establishing two-year time limit for suits for violations, especially since budget cuts will prevent already understaffed Wage-Hour Division from processing workers' claims expeditiously.

"(4) The enforcement potency of the Fair Labor Standards Act is undermined by ban on representative suits.

"(5) The Act encourages chiseling and non-compliance by limiting unpaid damages for violation no longer than two years. Why should employers comply with law when penalty for violation is merely to pay what they enjoyed if they complied? Why should they not profit from their own contemptive disadvantages by chiseling competitors? Chiseling will result in destruction of standards.

"Whatever may be the necessity of dealing with portal-to-portal pay, there is no justification for weakening existing labor legislation. The record of the times is strengthening the hands of such legislation. We have presented these irrefutable arguments to the Congress, which as guardian of the public welfare, will give heed to the dictates of reason and justice."

CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT EXPECTED TO INCREASE

San Francisco, Calif.—The April issue of the California Labor Statistics' Monthly Labor Review reveals the following information:

The labor force on the entire West Coast is expected to increase from 4,300,000 in 1940 and 5,100,000 in 1945 to 5,900,000 in 1950, a 37 percent rise.

The total civilian employment in the state at the wartime peak was 4,712,000 in June 1944. The postwar low was reached in February, 1946, with 3,527,000 in civilian employment. It then climbed steadily to a seasonal high of 3,706,000 in September, 1946, and in December, 1946, stood at 3,646,000.

Taft Plan Defeated By Vote of 44-43 On Initial Showdown

Washington, D. C.—The United States Senate, in a sharp revolt against its present leadership defeated what is termed private organized American labor Taft-Ball-Hartley Act, rejected, 44 to 43, a move to restrict industry-wide bargaining.

The Senate action marked the first major defeat for Senator Taft, Republican, of Ohio, since he became chairman of the Senate Labor Committee and head of the Senate Republican Policy Committee. The revolt against the amendment was led by Senator Morse, Republican, of Oregon, and Senator Morse, Republican, of Oregon.

Senator Taft stared down at his desk disconsolately as the result was announced, but a few moments later was primed and exchanging handclaps with Senator Ives.

Defeat of the' industry-wide bargaining ban came at a moment when the American Federation of Labor was planning advertisements in papers throughout the Nation explaining that only such a system could insure industrial peace throughout America and assure workers in this country of a decent standard of living.

The advancement declared:

"Industry knows no boundaries. It spreads across the States. Thousands of employers are organized on the industry-wide basis.

"To meet industry as an equal, labor must bargain on an industry-wide basis. The real interests of the public, the workers and the employer are identical. They all need what America needs, what the world needs, up to date management peace and increased production.

"You, the public, certainly have an interest. You know that wartime economic maladjustments brought on strikes. You resented this inconvenience. The National Association of Manufacturers, attempting to capitalize on this resentment, has charged that industry-wide bargaining causes strikes and higher prices.

"This is not true. It is all too freely forgotten that the number of certain employers to give labor a fair deal has led to strikes; prices and rates have risen only 9.5 percent, whereas prices spiralled 30 percent; retail prices were up 20 percent—but corporate profits were the greatest in 10 years.

"More than 4,000,000 working people are now covered by industry-wide agreements negotiated through employers prefer this method of bargaining because it has been proved to banned a major upheaval in those areas of industrial relations. Hundreds of new strikes will be encountered many if industry-wide bargaining had no strikes in generations. You will find industrial harmony during the trial peace. Such unwise legislation will create a very unstable situation which assuredly seeks to abolish."

Such the issue came to a head on the floor of the Senate in regard to collective bargaining. Senator Morse presented Mr. Taft's leadership to the test by introducing an amendment to the Ohioan's proposal to outlaw "Nation-wide bargaining."

In his vigorous opposition to the proposed ban on Nation-wide bargaining, Senator Ives had the backing of Senator Taft leaned forward attentively.

"With this amendment we are taking the first step in a series of steps toward the destruction of proper and necessary labor legislation ever taken in the United States.

"Mr. President, we are also opening the door to the utter disintegration of organized labor in this country—and this fact should be borne in mind. Nation-wide bargaining was said, to provide local autonomy for trade agreements, but the effect of ineffective this amendment could testify would be destroyed.

"The removal of the influence of Nation-wide bargaining is one of our economy might well leave these areas with the weakest influence of a type which I leave to the imagination.

"The very first consideration of trade unionism as an influence in our economy is to prevent competition more than anything else to the detriment of the welfare of America."

Senator Morse, hoarsely seconding Senator Ives' remarks, said the Senate:

"If what you are after is to weaken the power of labor, you have no responsible in their relations with their employers, then Nation-wide bargaining is recommended to you. It is a very effective weapon by indirection."

UNDER-SCALE BOSS JAILED

Long Beach, Calif.—A restaurant operator, Leslie Johnson, will spend the next six months in jail for failing to pay an employe the scale provided in his contract with the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Union (AFL). Dolton ignored repeated warnings from the Labor Division of Law Enforcement.